ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

System and method for providing a binary encoding protocol as an alternative to markup language protocols for Web services. Embodiments may provide a Web services stack with a single API that supports a binary encoding protocol in addition to a markup language protocol. Embodiments may dynamically and transparently switch between the markup language protocol and the binary encoding protocol, for example for communications between servers and clients in a Web services network environment. An exemplary markup language is XML. An exemplary binary encoding protocol that may be used is WS-Fast, which may use Abstract Syntax Notation One (ASN.1) and a mapping from XML Schema to ASN.1 for on-the-wire binary messages. Some embodiments may be implemented as a Java Web services stack that implements WS-Fast as an alternative to XML, while still supporting XML and providing one API to both protocols.